

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sessions House,
USK.....Mon.

September 1949.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Pontypool.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to tender the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for the year 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Clerk and Medical Officer	-	Part Time.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	-	Whole Time (Jointly with Usk U.D.C.)
Veterinary Surgeon	)	
Public Analyst	)	Monmouthshire County Council
Vaccination Officer	)	
Health Visitors	)	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

The district comprises of seven parishes with a total area of 34,147 acres and is predominately agricultural with slight urbanisation at Croesyceiliog in the parish of Llanfrochfa Lower.

There is a large Royal Ordnance Factory at Glascoed which employs several thousand operatives, the majority of whom are drawn from the surrounding urban areas.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the end of the year was 5680.

Rateable Value - £24730.

Product of a penny rate - £99.

Number of dwelling houses and residences - 1588.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Clinics for the above purpose are provided by the County Council and are held at Usk, Pontypool and Croesyceiliog.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Now provided under the National Health Service Act by the Local Authority namely the Monmouthshire County Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Water samples and pathological specimens are examined and reported upon by the Public Health Laboratory Service (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at their Newport Laboratory.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The area is now all served by an ambulance service provided by the Monmouthshire County Council.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

All hospital services are now provided for by the Regional

over/

Hospital Board.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination is performed free of charge by the Medical Practitioners and Medical Officer of Health.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation is performed free of charge by the Practitioners and the Medical Officer of Health.

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION (Dec. 1948)

1.	Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1948.							
Age at 31.12.48	Under 1 yr. 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5 - 9 1939-43	10 - 14 1934 - 38	Total under 15 yrs.
Number Immunised	12	125	64	128	131	305	465	1230
Estimated mid-year population of children 1948	3 - 4 years. 467				5 - 14 years. 693			

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation during 1948.

N I L.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Sixty-eight cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and of these it was found necessary to remove three to Isolation hospital.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.....	9
Pneumonia.....	1
Measles and German Measles.....	44
Whooping Cough.....	13
Malaria.....	1
Total	<u>68</u>

The necessary steps of isolation of contacts and disinfection were all taken where necessary.

31.12.48

over/

TUBERCULOSIS.

The position at 31st December, 1948 was:-

MALES.FEMALES.

Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
21	5	14	9

Total number of cases on Register at 31st December 1949 - 49.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Rural District Council supply the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower with mains water purchasing in bulk for Croesyceiliog from the Pontypool Gas and Water Company and for Ponthir from the Newport Borough Council. The areas bounding the main Pontypool - Usk road being supplied by the Pontypool Gas and Water Company who are the statutory undertakers for that area.

The Council have recently completed their first post-war water supply scheme, this covering the supply of some 18 houses and 3 farms.

Two further schemes covering the supply of 155 houses have been commenced, the one scheme nearing completion at the end of the year.

Number of houses supplied direct from mains by Council.....	411
Other premises supplied.....	14
Other mains supplies (Pontypool Gas and Water Co).....	145
(Llanover Estate).....	33

The wells in the district are kept under close supervision but on the whole the water supplied is not up to standard.

The water supplied from the mains has no plumbo-solvent action.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council has provided a scheme covering Croesyceiliog and Lower Pontnewydd with which some 240 houses are connected.

Two further schemes have been promoted by the Council, the one, at Little Mill, providing for some 72 houses and nearing completion and the other at Ponthir covering approximately 100 houses to commence in the near future.

All houses now under erection have water carriage systems but on the whole the scattered nature of development in the district does not lend itself to the economic provision of sewerage systems.

The majority of farmhouses and farm labourers cottages have bucket closets or water closets draining into adjoining land by way of cesspits and soakaways.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1948.

	Males	Females.
Total Deaths (per Registrar).....	45	23
Corrected Deaths.....	56	22
Death Rate per 1000.....	10.8	
Death Rate for County of Monmouth.....	11.1	
Death Rate for England & Wales.....	10.8	

over/

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	2
Measles.....	1	
Cancer of stomach.....		1
Cancer of breast.....		2
Cancer all other sites.....	3	3
Cancer of Bucca: & oesophagus; (M) uterus (F).....	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	2	5
Heart Diseases.....	10	1
Other diseases of circulatory system.....	2	1
Bronchitis.....	1	
Other respiratory diseases.....		1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....		1
Other digestive diseases.....	3	
Premature birth.....	1	2
/n Congenital malformation; birth injuries; Infant: dis: ...	1	
Suicide.....		2
Road accidents.....	2	
Other violent causes.....	2	
All other causes.....	2	
Total	34	22

	Male	Female
Total Births.....	415	380
Corrected after transfer.....	43	52
Legitimate.....	41	51
Illegitimate.....	2	1

Total Births (corrected after transfer)	95
Birth Rate per 1000	16.7
Birth Rate for County of Monmouth.....	19.2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

	Male.	Female.
Total deaths under one year.....	3	2
Infantile Mortality Rate	52.6	
County Rate.....	43.7	

over/

CONCLUSION.

The health of the Pontypool Rural District has been good throughout the year 1948 and no circumstances prejudicial to the public health have arisen which could not be dealt with locally.

In common with the rest of the country the housing shortage is acute and as a result there are a number of cases of unavoidable overcrowding.

The Council houses completed and those under construction are of a pleasing type and a great advance upon the older types of dwellings. Every effort is being made in the new houses to provide efficient sewage disposal and also a sufficient and pure piped supply of water.

While this increases the total costs of construction it is money wisely spent.

I wish to thank the Council and the Clerk for the courtesy and help which they have given to both my predecessor and myself during the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.C.R.HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sessions House;
USK.....Mon.

4th October 1949.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949 as follows:

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	335
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134
Cowsheds and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	361
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	478
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Disinfections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Disinfestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Factories and Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186

1771

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (i)(a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts) | 335 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 335 |
| (ii)(a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | 87 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 87 |
| (iii) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 5 |
| (iv) | Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 95 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 70

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.
- (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 25
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners. 22
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil.
- (C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 5
- (ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil

OVERCROWDING.

The housing accommodation of the district is overtaxed, this being largely due to the influx of key workers and to the greater numbers of young married couples. The erection of new factories in the neighbouring Urban Districts has also contributed to the problem inasmuch as many of the employees in the new factories have moved into the District. Whilst the population remains in a fluid state it is impossible to give a true figure of the number of houses which became overcrowded during the year. A number of cases of overcrowding were relieved by re-housing some of the families in new houses which were completed during the year.

POST WAR HOUSING.

Forty new Council Houses were completed during the year. The houses were all of the traditional type, pleasing in appearance and very suitable for housing medium sized families. A further thirteen traditional type houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Four privately constructed houses were completed during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

A gradual improvement in the availability of materials was experienced during the latter part of the year but labour was most difficult to obtain. As a consequence only the most urgent of works could be dealt with.

CARAVANS.

Six caravans remained stationed in the district at the end of the year. Water supply and sanitary accommodation to the caravans was satisfactory. It is hoped that ultimate improvement in housing accommodation will finally allow of clearing the district of all caravans.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28872356>

SCHOOLS.

Schools are visited periodically and sanitation and water supply of most are satisfactory. Drainage difficulties are being experienced at the Goetre School and the Education Authorities are being urged to instal a small disposal works in order that present difficulties be overcome.

WATER SUPPLY.

Frequent samples were taken from the Public mains and no difficulties were experienced during the year.

The Council is proceeding with the schemes for the supply of water in the parishes of Goetre, Marshlad and Komeys Commander, the scheme for Marshlad being well on the way to completion. These schemes will provide for the supply of water to approximately 160 houses together with appreciable number of dairy farms.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Particulars of premises on Register at end of year:-

Producers		171
Retailers		11

Cowsheds were frequently inspected and such matters as arose attended to. Farmers are becoming increasingly aware of the Grants available for the installation of piped supplies of water and are taking advantage of the facilities offered. The increasing prosperity in the agricultural industry is being reflected in the increasing numbers of cowsheds and dairies which are being brought up to modern standards.

NUISANCES.

A number of these were reported and investigated and all work remedied by both formal and informal action.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

One parish only is provided with a sewerage system but the Council is now proceeding with the scheme providing for the village of Little Mill and part of Monkwood. The scheme for the sewerage of Ponthir has been held up due to the withdrawal of the Contractors.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse is now being collected throughout the larger and more thickly populated parishes. Croesyceiliog and Llanbadoc being collected weekly and Ponthir and Goetre Fawr and a portion of the parish of Monkwood being collected fortnightly. The collection of refuse in the parishes of Goetre and Monkwood covers an additional 230 houses.

INFESTATION ORDER.

The larger part of the Rural District is agricultural and farm premises are dealt with by the Officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee. There is a major rat infestation at the Council Refuse Tip at Croesyceiliog but regular treatments are carried out. Such other infestations as occurred were of a minor character and were promptly dealt with.

FOODSHOPS ETC.

The small number of shops situated in the Rural District are frequently visited and all are found to be well regulated.

540 Tins of various foodstuffs and $17\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of dried other foods were condemned as unfit for consumption during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,6 are enforced by Local Authority	5	11	1	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	8	26	2	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	7	15	-	nil
Total	20	52	3	nil

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation.....	1	1		
Overcrowding.....	-	-		
Want of drainage of floors.	-	-		
Other nuisances.....	1	1		
(insufficient..	-	-		
(unsuitable or				
Sanitary (defective.....	2	2		
Accommodation(not separate				
(for sexes.....	-	-		
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts:				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouses (S.16)				
Other offences.....	-	-		
Total	5	5	Nil	nil

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Cyril Morgan
Sanitary Inspector.

